

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on October 15, 2004, the Examiner has allowed claims 22,
5 24, 25 and 27 – 31. The Examiner has objected to claims 8 – 10, 12 – 14 and 19 – 21. The
Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 15, 16 and 18.

With regard to claim 6, to which the Examiner has objected, applicant respectfully points
out for Examiner's consideration that the phrase "rotatable valve plate" in claim 1 refers to the
plate in the throttle body 40 within the air intake manifold structure 70. This component is
10 shown in Figure 1. The phrase "rotatable air deflection device" refers to the air flow control
mechanism 50 which is also shown in Figure 1. As described throughout the specification of the
subject patent application, the air flow control mechanism can assume various forms, such as the
device 90 shown in Figure 2, the device 110 shown in Figure 3, or the device illustrated in Figure
5 which is implemented in Figure 4. As such, applicant respectfully contends that this is not a
15 recitation of the same element twice. In addition, it does add a further limitation to claim 6 by
requiring the rotatable air deflection device in combination with the rotatable valve plate 40.
Applicant respectfully requests Examiner to withdraw this objection for the reasons described
above.

Claim 15 is objected to because it depends on canceled claim 2. This has been changed
20 so that claim 15 is now dependent on claim 1.

With regard to claim 16, applicant had intended to delete the word "passage." and replace
it with "passage;". Applicant appreciates Examiner's identification of this oversight.

Claim 22 has similarly been amended with regard to applicant's failure to delete the word
"passage;".

25 With regard to claim 27, applicant respectfully points out for Examiner's consideration
that the situation is similar to that relating to claims 1 and 6. The "rotatable air deflection
device" and the "rotatable valve plate" are two different components which are both illustrated in
Figure 1.

With regard to Examiner's objection relating to claims 8 and 22, applicant points out for
30 Examiner's consideration that claim 8 has now been canceled and claim 1 has been amended to
include the limitation previously contained in claim 8. Comparing claims 1 and 22, subsequent
to the amended described above, applicant respectfully points out for Examiner's consideration

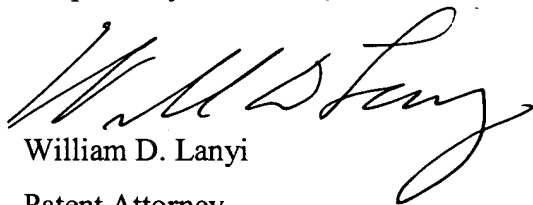
that claim 1 now describes the air passage as extending within the cavity between the inlet of the air passage and an outlet of the air passage. This characteristic is not contained within claim 22. Furthermore, the descriptions of the air flow control mechanism in claims 1 and 22 are distinct from each other. The air flow control mechanism in claim 22 is described as comprising a rotatable valve plate, whereas the air flow control mechanism in claim 1 is not. This rotatable valve plate within the air flow control mechanism is intended to refer to an air control mechanism similar to that shown in Figure 3, with the valve plate 110 included.

Applicant believes that the changes shown above are responsive to Examiner's objections and are effective in placing the remaining claims in allowable form.

Applicant intends to provide formal drawings after receipt of the Notice of Allowance to replace the originally filed drawings which, although determined by the Examiner to be suitable for prosecution, are informal.

In view of the changes made to the claims of the subject patent application and in further view of the discussion above, applicant respectfully requests Examiner's reconsideration of the subject patent application and expeditious allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 – 16, 18, 20 – 22, 24, 25, and 27 – 31.

Respectfully Submitted,



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